



First Suburbs Consortium of Southwest Ohio

Meeting Summary

Thursday January 27, 2005
Drake Conference Center
151 West Galbraith Road, Meeting Room D
8:00 AM–9:30 AM

PARTICIPANTS: Gary Blomberg, Montgomery (chairman)
Jim Siegel, Silverton
Robert Kelly, Wyoming
Jack Cameron, Evendale
Jeff Wright, Milford
Jim Brown, Lockland
Dave Moore, Greenhills
Tom Eberle, Greenhills
Dave Savage, Wyoming
Jenny Kilgore, Glendale
Chuck Kamine, Amberley Village
Peggy Brickweg, St. Bernard
Mike Hinnenkamp, Springfield Township
Adam Goetzman, Green Township
Frank Davis, Montgomery
Susan Roschke, TEC Engineering
Bob Richardson, KZF Design
Mel Martin, HCRPC
Catalina Landivar-Simon, HCRPC staff
Andy Dobson, HCRPC staff
Ron Miller, HCRPC staff

PURPOSE:

- Act on Greater Ohio Legislative Agenda
- Discuss *CRI Strategic Plan* and projects for 2005

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Update on UC Studio Projects
3. Greater Ohio Legislative Agenda Discussion and Vote on Endorsement
4. State Investment Tax Credit
5. Presentation of *Community Revitalization Initiative Strategic Plan*

DISCUSSION:
(conclusions and
decisions)

Update on UC Studio Projects

Ron Miller updated the board regarding UC Studio Research. The current studio, "Structure and Dynamics for Human Settlements", will produce reports for each community in the Consortium describing the processes of urban evolution, growth and change exploring the interactions among economic and social forces -- production, employment, values of land and real estate, availability of social services, racial and ethnic distribution of the urban population, structure of urban governance, urban fiscal base, land and growth regulations and controls.

Greater Ohio Legislative Agenda

Andy sent out an updated version of the Greater Ohio Legislative Agenda to members at the end of December for consideration by their elected officials. After individual communities decide whether or not to endorse the Agenda, FSC-SW can then draft a resolution for a vote by the Board. A vote is scheduled for February, and Andy will remind member communities to bring the matter before their elected officials for consideration before the next meeting.

State Investment Tax Credit

Senator Kirk Schuring will be introducing legislation that will create a 25% tax credit for the restoration and rehabilitation of Ohio's vacant and underutilized historic buildings. The tax credit will encourage private investment in historic properties, generate additional jobs and stimulate economic development within existing communities. Additionally, this credit should spur greater investments in smaller commercial projects and Main Street commercial properties of older neighborhoods.

The bill was developed in close collaboration with Greater Ohio and Heritage Ohio and other preservation organizations, developers, tax credit users, and the financing community. Greater Ohio is asking FSC-SW and other organization to write their state Senators to ask them to co-sponsor this bill. Andy presented a draft letter to the Board for Gary Blomberg to send to Senators Mallory, Clancy, and Schuller.

MOTION:

to authorize the chairman to revise and send a letter from FSC-SW (base on the draft reviewed today) to Hamilton County's senators asking for them to co-sponsor the State Investment Tax Credit Bill.

Moved: Dave Savage
Second: Chuck Kamine
Vote: Approved unanimously

(note: a list of FSC representatives should be added to the FSC letterhead)

Community Revitalization Initiative Strategic Plan

Andy presented an overview of the *CRI Strategic Plan* in preparation for deciding which strategies to focus on in 2005. Andy summarized the process used to develop the plan, the vision and goal areas, and the 14 strategies which resulted.

A discussion followed Andy's presentation, related to what projects FSC should undertake and what the mission of the group should be. The general consensus was that the *CRI Plan*, while a valuable document, does not necessarily set the

agenda for FSC. Many of the strategies in the plan need further clarification, and the members of FSC want the opportunity to identify their views on unique possibilities of working together and new ideas to add to the list for consideration.

Some ideas or themes stated at the meeting included:

- Legislative communication
- Protection of Local Government Fund and Estate Tax
 - Lobbying to protect the LGF has great importance since it currently provides the majority of funding for some communities
 - A study and report could be initiated to identify the implications on Hamilton County communities if the Local Government Fund is discontinued.
- How existing collaborative efforts between communities can work into FSC program and foster additional collaboration and economies of scale – e.g., joint fire districts
- Local financial challenges and the need for knowledge about grant-writing and grant availability
- Need for knowledge about combining services for cost savings
- Unfunded mandates (e.g., homeland security costs)
- Transportation policy impacts on core communities

In general, it was suggested that FSC should concentrate the most on collaborative projects and tasks that individual members could not accomplish alone (e.g., benefits from economies of scale). Also, FSC should avoid getting too fragmented and should focus on just a couple critical efforts rather than the entire action agenda in the Community Revitalization Initiative.

Andy will send a message to members asking for project ideas. These ideas should be sent to Andy by February 10. The Executive Committee will consider these and other ideas and develop some discussion themes for the February FSC meeting.

Neighborhood Support Organizations

Ron Miller gave an overview of the role and potential of Neighborhood Support Organizations (NSOs) funding opportunities for NSOs through the United Way of Greater Cincinnati. As FSC progresses, NSOs could become an important vehicle for support and implementation of goals in communities that meet United Way's criteria.

NEXT MEETING: Executive Committee
February 14, 2005
Amberley Village Administration Building
8:30–10:00

First Suburbs Consortium
February 24, 2005
Drake Center
8:00–9:30 (*note: meeting may be extended for project discussion*)
